



**Maryland Green Building Council
Meeting Summary
Lowe House of Delegates Office Building, Room 150
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Md. 21401**

Wednesday October 28, 2015 – 10 A.M. -12 P.M.

Attendees:

Prescott Gaylord	MDGBC	Helen Stewart	DNR
Stephen Gilliss	MDGBC	Martha Shrader	UMD
Lisa Ferretto	MDGBC	Anne Raines	MDP
Christine Varney	MDGBC	Meg Andrews	MDOT
Anja Caldwell	MDGBC	Caroline Varney-Alvarado	DHCD
Laura Armstrong	MDE		

Support:

Ellen Robertson	DGS	Tonya Zimmerman	DLS
Genevieve Savain	DGS	Andrew Gray	DLS
Robert Kutner	DGS	James Ley	DGS

Guests:

Alicia Moran	Ammedia + Marketing
Ben Roush	USGBC MD

- I. Chairman Prescott Gaylord brought the meeting to order @ 10:00 AM.
- II. Prescott asked for a motion to approve the meeting summaries from the March and August 2015 meetings. There were no objections and the summaries were approved.
- III. Prescott announced that the Maryland Green Building Council 2015 Annual Report has been completed and is with Secretary Bassette for final approval. Two draft copies were passed around the room. Stephen Gilliss said that the report will be on the DGS website as soon as possible.
- IV. Strategic planning for the Maryland Green Building Council Vision

Prescott said that he would like the Council have a brief discussion and then break up into smaller groups to work on different topics and come back together to discuss findings. From that we could focus on topics to work on, possibly as policy recommendations to the administration.

1. Laura Armstrong asked about DGS's energy goals and programs. She mentioned the previous administration's attempt at an Executive Order encouraging agencies to monitor energy usage, water use, waste etc.
2. Caroline Varney-Alvarado wondered what agencies like hers which occupies leased space do in terms of agency energy plans. Laura was concerned that focusing just on new construction and significant renovations misses opportunities in existing buildings including leased space. Prescott said that nothing is out of the scope of the Council.
3. Stephen Gilliss responded saying that DGS' energy department is working with agencies on their agency energy plans but that it's a struggle.
4. Lisa Ferretto said that there was a legislative preview on environmental issues held by the Maryland League of Conservation Voters in Baltimore on October 27, 2015, but that she didn't attend. She asked if anyone else had attended. She feels the Council should be aware of what is going on in this administration.
5. Prescott asked what DGS is doing operationally to in terms of green building.
 - a. James Ley, the DGS Sustainability Coordinator, explained that DGS submitted proposals to MEA for funding renewable energy projects including installing electric car charging stations at DGS facilities in Baltimore, Annapolis and State Multi-Service Centers. James said that DGS submitted a wish list to MEA to use its grant funds for a variety of projects including solar projects and lighting retrofits.
 - b. Genevieve Savain, the Sustainability Coordinator in Annapolis, said that they are making an outreach effort to users of DGS buildings and that the recycling program is transitioning to single stream recycling. The current diversion rate is 30% with 70% trash. The State mandated 50% recycling, 50% trash by 2015, but that goal has not yet been achieved. An attempt is under way to change trash collection methods, re-educate tenants and reduce the number of trash cans. This will hopefully increase recycling and also reduce the cost of cleaning contracts. Genevieve said DGS is working on changing the way we operate our buildings.
6. Prescott noted that the Council included building operations in the vision statement so we could focus on that as the state has far more existing buildings than new. Lisa said that she would like to see a pie chart comparing existing buildings energy use to new buildings. Prescott noted that David St. Jean gave a presentation recently on agency energy plans.
7. Stephen Gilliss explained that DGS manages energy performance contracts to reduce energy usage in existing buildings and that they are tracking energy and water usage on state buildings under a provider contract. The data is available on a public website and Maryland is a national leader in tracking its energy usage.

8. Caroline said data goes to DGS and it would be good to share information. Steve said he did not know if energy usage in Maryland's leased buildings was tracked. Laura said MDE is in leased space and energy usage is tracked.
9. Lisa Ferretto asked if the Council could get a list of these initiatives that are ongoing.
10. Anja asked if the Council could praise the positive efforts that are ongoing.
 - a. Laura said that she manages the Maryland Green Registry, a State awards program for organization's environmental commitment to sustainable practices. Recognition gives increased visibility. Laura stated that state agencies are not currently eligible for awards but offered the opportunity to create a state agency award and allow the Council to assume judging responsibilities for that award. Award applications are due in the spring.
 - b. Prescott asked what we might award. Anja said we could create some categories for awards. Prescott asked if there are other groups providing awards for things like green procurement. James responded that the green procurement council does that.
 - c. Ellen Robertson suggested creating more exposure through a public event showcasing the Council and awardees. Another idea is partnering with groups to do presentations. Ellen said the Council may use state rooms at no charge if available. Inviting legislators would improve exposure. If we are requesting the next legislative session, it is probably too late to reserve a room. The "Maryland Energy Cup" was an event put on by DGS several years ago. The competition pitted different state agencies against each other to see who could save the most energy. It took a great deal of planning. Lisa suggested that we don't invent our own awards- we could just highlight awards that already exist. This discussion went on with numerous ideas for different types of programs and awards.
11. Laura agreed that these are all great ideas, but that it would also help to have a state energy goal in addition to incentives including allowing agencies to retain the cost savings they achieve through energy use reduction.
12. Anne Raines agreed but asked how the Council decides what to get behind. She believes there is a data problem. She suggested asking all State agencies to do a thorough analysis of all buildings and their energy use. James noted again that this information is being collected as well as it can be.
13. Anja said the only way to save energy, is to have a meter on everything. She advocates helping agencies become aware of savings and encourage staff to feel better for saving energy and water.
14. Prescott suggested that the Council find ways to reward agencies for reduction in energy use, for new buildings as well as for existing buildings, showcasing successes. He also suggested working to get the state to tie the capital and operating budgets together to allow one to save from the expenditures of the other. Maryland should lead in this.

15. Christine suggested that the Council be briefed on any bills that have to do with Green Building. Ellen said that any proposed legislation would have to be approved by Secretary Bassette. Prescott said we have knowledge and are the Secretary's brain trust. He asked what legislation the Council can introduce. Ellen suggested that the Council meet with Secretary Bassette after the 2016 Session to develop any initiatives.
16. Caroline Varney-Alvarado is concerned that DHCD is housed in a leased LEED Silver building and wants to know why leased buildings are not included in the annual report. She pointed out that report includes buildings which are not required to comply with the program. Meg Andrews suggested DGS real estate to present information on how many buildings are leased versus owned and on green leasing requirements. Laura said that DGS has had green requirements in their leasing for a while. MDE and DHCD do not own the buildings they occupy.
17. Prescott asked if we have enough suggestions to narrow down to make recommendations. Anne Raines said the Council needs to impose more preparation and structure on itself to be ready to prepare anything meaningful. She thought we should put together a picture of what is already being done in the state as a starting point and broaden them. Meg agreed. Laura suggested prioritizing ideas. We need to take on what is manageable or we will be spread too thin. Martha Shrader suggested choosing three initiatives to focus on. Anja agrees the Council needs to make the strategic decisions.
18. Lisa would like to know legislative session timelines to prepare for future legislative sessions. Ellen Robertson will give a brief presentation at the next meeting.
19. Ann Raines suggested developing a list of what agencies are doing agency by agency as that would give structure. Prescott agreed. Ann will start to assemble information.
20. Laura requested DGS lead the talk, perhaps have Barry Powell, the Director of Energy for the state, present what his department is doing in a future meeting. Stephen Gilliss said that the state's service agencies that are doing green work are part of the Green Building Council and that most state agencies have other missions that are not focused on saving energy and resources. These Council member agencies should be able to report on what they are doing. It was decided that DGS will report to the Council at the next meeting on its ongoing green building programs and data.
21. Anja said that there are other councils working in this area. We should see what they are doing. We shouldn't be re-inventing the wheel if someone else is working on something we are interested in. She volunteered to put together a list of other councils in the state working in this arena. Ellen suggested looking in the Maryland Manual for these.
22. Prescott noted that we can't meet on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the week before – November 18 – is the start of

GreenBuild. He proposed the next meeting be held on December 9, 2015. The Council agreed. Prescott suggested DGS presentations for the next Council meeting. Discussion ended.

V. Once around the table

- A. Anja is excited that Greenbuild will be in Washington D.C., November 18-20, 2015.
- B. Lisa & Martha will be making a LEED vs. IgCC presentation at Towson University for the State University Facilities Planners, College Climate Action Group meeting on October 30, 2015.
- C. Christine said that she attended a very interesting “airports going green” conference in Chicago last week.
- D. Stephen Gilliss reminded everyone that in addition to all of the energy being put into new initiatives, LEED V4 is going to become mandatory in 2016 and the Council should get educated and study the possible impact on the current Council program. Ben Roush, representing USGBC MD, said that they will be doing a lot of outreach on V4 in 2016.
- E. Laura Armstrong announced that the MEA will be moving to Montgomery Park leased offices by year’s end.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 9, 2015 at 10:00 AM in the Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 in room 145 (Baltimore City Delegates).

The preceding is intended as a summary only of the discussions held on this meeting date. Council members are requested to review the summary and notify the writer of any errors, omissions or unintended misrepresentations of the discussion.